

AM9-99-0134
09/556,303REMARKS

The previous office action of 12/2/2003 has been withdrawn. A new office action has been issued. This amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action dated 5/19/2004. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendment and the remarks that follow.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 23-39 are pending.

Claims 23-39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Perlman (USP 5,558,339).

OVERVIEW OF CLAIMED INVENTION

The presently claimed invention integrates both the time scheduling capabilities of a calendar system and the efficient matching functions of pairing services into one application that is powerful for many users, organizations and types of services. By integrating a calendar system with a matching service, the capabilities of the calendaring system will not only match an entity's similar interests or needs, but also provide a matching of activities according to time. This not only allows an entity to locate other entities that would be interested in a particular activity, but also allows an entity to locate other entities who can participate in the activity at particular times. Another advantage of the present invention is that it is of greater convenience to the entity to create a calendar event, rather than filling out, for instance, a separate application in which an entity does not remain anonymous. By easing the process of requesting a match operation, entries into the system are more readily made. Applications of this method include personal

AM9-99-0134
09/556,303

matching (such as a dating service), extracurricular activities, commerce-based activities, and job positions and/or qualifications.

In the Claims

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The examiner has rejected claims 23-39 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,558,339 (Perlman), hereafter Perlman.

Perlman discloses a real-time video game system that focuses on linking remote players of a first computer with a second computer for interactive video game recording. The system is designed to match multiple users of real-time games by establishing a communication link with a plurality of other computers on a telephone line. The software for establishing the link includes processing logic that matches two users (computers) that are currently logged on to the system and have a desire to play a video game at that time.

The examiner notes column 11, lines 11-43 of Perlman as describing the elements of the claims of the present invention. In these lines, Perlman describes the process of a user (element User A) requesting real-time play of a video game to a server (element 88). The server then determines the logged-in users and matches pairs of currently logged-in users to play the game. Messages are then sent to the logged-in computers (elements 65 and 66; users A and B) indicating play can begin.

To be properly rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), each and every claim element must be shown in a single reference. Perlman does not describe or suggest the use of an electronic calendar event matching system. Furthermore, Perlman does not disclose an electronic calendaring system with time-based matching of activities. In fact, Perlman teaches away from the present invention by describing a real-time matching system with no consideration of future

AM9-99-0134
09/556,303

calendar events, or time periods. Perlman has no use for calendar events as all matching is performed for users that are simultaneously online at the same time. As logging-in is a requirement for Perlman, the use of Perlman with a calendar matching system as described in the present invention would be inoperative and would not achieve the stated goal of event matching. More specifically, Perlman fails to disclose or anticipate an electronic calendaring system that uses a match server comprising a match engine that automatically performs a search to match calendar events of two entities during a specific period of time and having specific criteria, requirements, and attributes.

The present invention's goal is to integrate the time scheduling of a calendar system with a matching service, therefore allowing a user not only to be presented with a match of similar interests or needs, but also to allow a user to locate other entities or parties who can participate in the match interest or need at a particular time in the future. With regard to claim 23, Perlman does not disclose any type of electronic calendar event matching system or calendar store as described in the present invention. The calendar store of the present invention retains the properties and calendar components of a single or multiple calendars. The Examiner states that a calendar store and a match server are used in Perlman. However, Perlman fails to mention a calendar store and calendar events as a part of the search criteria for a match. The use of a calendar is not present or suggested in Perlman nor is it described in column 11, lines 11-37 as provided by the Examiner. Furthermore, Perlman does not describe the use of a match server that is connected to a calendar store by an electronic calendar application. The match server of the present invention comprises elements that locate an event match according to a calendar entry. As the calendar component of the claims of the present invention is not disclosed or described at all in the Perlman reference, Perlman fails to provide the basic elements of each of the claims.

AM9-99-0134
09/556,303

In addition, Perlman does not register, store, notify, search, delete or update a user's electronic calendar as identified in the present invention, and therefore is not described or anticipated.

Perlman further fails to disclose the period of time of an event (when an event is to occur) as a part of the search criteria. In the present invention, the period of time is an identifying search criterion. That is, the entity creating the calendar event specifies when—a date, time, or time period, for example—the event will take place for which an activity or similar search request is to take place in order to locate a match. For example, a user has free time to play amateur tennis on next Thursday from 5:00 to 7:00 PM. The present invention includes those matches that include both the time (date and time of day) and match specifics (e.g., place, competitive level, etc.) The prior art of Perlman does not consider 'time' as a parameter in search algorithms as it is only performed when the users are logged in to provide real-time interaction.

Further, because Perlman fails to provide or anticipate each and every element in claim 23, dependent claims 24-31 are not anticipated by Perlman as they inherit the limitations of the independent claim. The timer module of dependent claim 24 is used to schedule matching searches on a regular interval for calendar entries. The examiner states Perlman, column 10, line 1 – column 11, line 49 describes timing that begins performing matches whenever a user logs in. Rather, the Perlman reference discloses that the user (User A) must specify and request the software to make a match for playing the real-time video game. The present invention uses a match engine to search the event repository and locate a match. The user defines the specific date, time, etc. of an activity as well as the criteria, etc. for the event. Perlman only allows a user to locate a match in real-time and at the present moment when the user is logged into the system. Since the presently claimed invention identifies the scheduling of an event to be a criterion for

AM9-99-0134
09/556,303

the matching process, and the timer module is used to regularly perform searches for matches, Perlman does not anticipate the present invention. Also, Perlman does not notify entities of a match via an electronic calendar application as described in claim 25.

The examiner states that a "video game" category is described in column 11, lines 11-12. However, Perlman does not discuss the use of categories nor does it describes at least one of personal matching, job qualifications, meetings, and activities as described in claims 26 and 27 of the present invention. Perlman is limited to the request of playing and recording real-time video games.

As per claims 28 and 29, commerce activity, items for purchase, and favorable prices or rates (among others mentioned in the claims) are not disclosed in Perlman. The lines noted by the Examiner—column 9, lines 15-23—describe the problems with the cost of telephone calls and charges in the prior art. Perlman does not suggest or describe related commerce activities as described in the present invention.

As noted by the Examiner, claims 32-39 recite limitations as described by claims 23-31. Because Perlman fails to provide or anticipate each and every element in claim 23, and similar limitations are described in independent claim 32 and dependent claims 33-39, Perlman fails to provide each and every element, including the electronic calendaring system, calendar store, and the matching of requirements and attributes of an event until it is satisfied, as described in the claims. The examiner notes that Perlman describes removing a user from a request once the request is fulfilled; that is, once the request for a user to play a real-time video game is met, the user can no longer be matched with another user. However, in the electronic calendaring system of the present invention, the matching process continues matching according to the calendar events and their requirements and attributes that are available. Claim 38 describes notifying users when an attendee deletes an event from their calendaring system. The Examiner has

AM9-99-0134
09/556,303

incorrectly correlated the users of Perlman being matched (while logged-in) with the deletion of an event. The examiner notes that once users log off of the video game system, they effectively delete their "event match." However, in the present invention, the deletion of an event match is performed by a user selecting a calendar event and removing it from a calendar schedule.

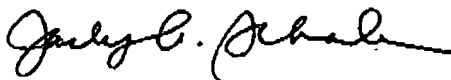
SUMMARY

Specifically, the Perlman reference fails to provide at least the following elements: an electronic calendar matching system, a calendar store, and the period of time of an event. Furthermore, elements of the dependent claims, such as a timer module, commerce activity, and categories are not disclosed or anticipated by Perlman. As has been detailed above, none of the references, cited or applied, provide for the specific claimed details of applicants' presently claimed invention, nor renders them obvious. It is believed that this case is in condition for allowance and reconsideration thereof and early issuance is respectfully requested.

As this amendment has been timely filed within the set period of response, no petition for extension of time or associated fee is required. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiencies in the fees provided to Deposit Account No. 12-0010.

If it is felt that an interview would expedite prosecution of this application, please do not hesitate to contact applicants' representative at the below number.

Respectfully submitted,



Jaclyn A. Schade
Registration No. 50,569

1725 Duke Street
Suite 650
Alexandria, Virginia 22314
(703) 838-7683
August 18, 2004